Contract Farming, however, is already being practiced in different States for production of various crops such as sugarcane, tobacco, oil palm, horticultural crops, plantation crops, etc. besides production of seeds of different crops.

Under the contract farming arrangements, the farmers carry on cultivation on contract basis with buy-back arrangements with the companies including multinational companies. Contract farming promotes and facilitate transfer of technology, in flow of quality inputs and funds, improved post harvest practices and assured market for agricultural produce.

Data bases on the coverage and operation of contract farming practices in different States have not yet been developed.

Compassionate appointments in KVS

*469. SHRI GANDHI AZAD: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the total appointments on class III and IV, posts made by the Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangathan on compassionate grounds in all the States, stating the appointments of SCs/STs made;

(b) how many cases of compassionate appointments are pending with the Sangathan;

(c) the details of SC/ST carry forward vacancies against compassionate grounds available as on 1st January, 2000 and 1st January, 2001; and

(d) how many cases for appointments on compassionate grounds, in respect of SCs/STs are lying pending and by when action would be taken?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI BACHI SINGH RAWAT): (a) 16 candidates have been appointed in KVs on compassionate grounds during the preceding two years, details of which are as follows:

Year	Group 'C' Post	Group 'D' Post
1999-2000	Nil	12
2000-2001	4	Nil
TOTAL :	4	12

(b) 26 cases.

(c) and (d) There is no provision for reservation for SC/ST category under compassionate appointments. Provision to hold back upto 5% of vacancies falling under direct recruitment quota in any group 'C' or 'D' posts for filling such vacancies by appointment on compassionate ground exists. The details of compassionate appointment made for SC/ST category and pending cases are as follows:

	Appointments made		Cases Pending	
	Group 'C'	Group 'D'	Group 'C'	Group 'D'
SC	—	3	2	—
ST	—	1	2	—
TOTAL :	—	4	4	—

Rail reservation centres at Rajouri and Poonch

*470. MIRZA ABDUL RASHID: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Rajouri and Poonch are two sensitive border districts in Jammu Division of J and K;

(b) if so, whether Government propose to open two railway ticket reservation centres at Rajouri and Poonch District headquarters for extending the facilities to the far flung areas and for connecting these two border districts with the rest of the country through computer system; and

(c) if so, by when?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI NITISH KUMAR): (a) Yes, Sir, as reported by Minister of Home Affairs.

(b) Government has already sanctioned reservation facility at Rajouri. As regards provision of computerised reservation facility at Poonch, there is no proposal under consideration of the Government at present.

(c) The computerised reservation facility at Rajouri will be commissioned when the necessary infrastructure like accommodation, communication channels and electrification is ready.

WTO negotiations on agriculture

*471. SHRI KHAGEN DAS: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that at a recent Chief Ministers' Conference, the States asked for their close involvement in the forthcoming WTO negotiations on the agreement on agriculture;